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No. 15

Mission impact doesn't end at retirement

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The young man ran toward the truck, waving his hands frantically.

Missionary Fred Allen recognized the piece of paper the man held in his hand — a gospel tract Allen had left in the village on a previous trip. "This is what we've been waiting for," the young man exclaimed. "We want to know more about God."

His voice filled with emotion, Allen recounted how the Lozi people of western Zambia received the good news of God's love as gladly as a thirsty man accepts a glass of cold water. In three years, more than 900 people made decisions for Christ and 33 new churches were started.

Allen, who served with his wife, Joy, in Zambia for 27 years, was one of 81 International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries who received emeritus status during a service May 3 at Mount Vernon Church in Richmond, Va.

The service capped a week of activities at IMB headquarters and debriefing sessions at the board's Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va.

Allen's testimony during the

recognition service echoed what other missionaries said about their cumulative 2,321 years of overseas service.

"Because Southern Baptists cared enough about the physical and spiritual needs of people, we were able to help people when they really needed help," Allen said. "And my heart floods with joy when I realize that, had we not had people back home supporting us and praying for us, these 900-plus people would still be in darkness today. So we come to say thank you, Southern Baptists, for all the help you've given us. It's been a pleasure to serve as your missionaries."

Mississippians John and Elizabeth Merritt, who served 33 years in Italy and Germany, remembered a skit performed during a 1989 meeting of the European Baptist Convention in Budapest, Hungary. The skit dramatized the separation communism inflicted upon European Christians and acted out the reunion the collapse of communism could bring about.

Four months later, the Iron Curtain fell.

"The fall of the wall presented opportunities for planting international Baptist churches in the great capital cities of Eastern Europe," said Merritt, who served 25 years as general secretary of the European Baptist Convention, formed originally from English-language churches servicing U.S. military personnel. "Soon eight churches had been planted, and others continue to be planted. God has done great things among us, whereof we are glad."



FOREVER CHANGED — "Now that our hearts have been stretched to include the very big unreached world, we will never be the same," says Graham Walker (center right), who served 27 years as a Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionary in Singapore. Walker talks with his son, David, who recently joined the IMB staff as a video producer. Holding David's hand is his daughter, Shannon. (BP photo by Roy M. Burroughs)

Marge Worten and her husband, Von, worked 33 years in nine countries of Asia with a combined population of 1.4 billion people — most of whom have never heard the good news of God's love.

Yet she recalled refugees who had only a cup of rice to eat each day who nevertheless sang songs of praise to God. She remembered a Bible student imprisoned for his faith who was mocked when he told other prisoners he had seen a vision of their release — and then led many to Christ when the vision was fulfilled.

Like the godly worker Paul

described in 2 Timothy 2, the emeritus missionaries had endured hardships, maintained discipline and rejoiced in seeing the harvest, said IMB President Jerry Rankin. "If we were recognizing you for what you have accomplished personally, this would be the conclusion of your ministry overseas," Rankin told the retiring missionaries. "But ... as you have borne witness and brought people to salvation, as you have disciplined them, as you have trained leaders, as you have nurtured new congregations, your lives have touched others."

Looking back

10 years ago

More than 11,000 Southern Baptists celebrate with pomp and pageantry the centennial of the Woman's Missionary Union by re-enacting the events of 100 years ago in Richmond, Va. that created the now 1.2 million member auxiliary to the SBC.

20 years ago

Beth Davenport, a Tupelo High senior and member of Calvary Church, Tupelo, is chosen as the winner of the state Youth Speaker's Tournament in Jackson on May 6. Thirteen youth competed for the chance to represent Mississippi at Glorieta Conference Center during the summer.

50 years ago

C. Z. Holland, pastor of First Church, Jonesboro, Ark. plans an extensive mission tour, via air, of Central and South America. While in Rio de Janeiro, Holland attended an International Rotary Convention. Holland came to Jonesboro after nine years as the pastor of First Church, Canton.



GIVING & GOING — After 30 years as a Southern Baptist missionary in Colombia, Jim Oliver is enjoying time with his grandson, Luke, but the world's need for the gospel continues to weigh on his heart. "What we would like to leave in the minds of our fellow Christians here in the United States is the urgency that we continue and increase our praying, giving and going," Oliver says. (BP photo by Sandy King)

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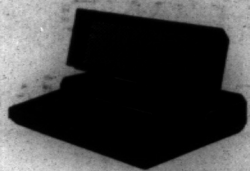
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The gambling industry received a double blow May 1 as Tennessee legislators voted against a lottery and an effort to reinstate the state Racing Commission set to close June 30.

Bill Bates, Tennessee Baptist Convention public affairs consultant, expressed appreciation to everyone who made phone calls, wrote letters or contacted legislators in any way. "I believe we had more people involved throughout the state than we ever had before," he said.

Bates encouraged education in churches. "We need our churches to begin having sessions regarding gambling and how it can affect all of our lives," he said.

"As Christian citizens we must not turn our backs on those who withstood political pressure and voted with us on this issue," said Baptist anti-gambling activist Ann Bennett of Kingsport, noting "gamblers know how to count votes. They will be involved in the elections. ... (The) gambling industry would like to change a few seats for their benefit too."

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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All I ever needed to know...

Very few sounds on earth delight the heart more than the laughter of a child, but one sound that does is the multiplied laughter of children gathered for the annual Southern Baptist adventure we call Vacation Bible School.

"Adventure" is an apt description of the Vacation Bible School experience, both for the children involved and for the all-volunteer cadre of teachers and support workers who answer the call of Proverbs 22:6.

Many millions of us remember first learning in Vacation Bible School of Jonah and his adventure with the whale, of David and his adventure with Goliath, of Daniel and his adventure in the lions' den, of the many other adventures of the men and women of the Bible.

We learned about the people of God long before we understood we were also learning about the Word of God, and about the nature of God himself. We didn't know our Vacation Bible School teachers were giving us the foundation upon which we would soon build our personal relationship with the Savior.

We have watched in agony as new adult Christians struggled with the concepts of the faith that came so easily to us, thanks to the Vacation Bible School lessons that

taught us those concepts before we could even spell the word.

We have watched in mourning as our friends, devoid of the spiritual truths we learned so early in life, turned to the allure of the sin to satisfy the emptiness that we knew all along only Jesus could fill.

We have watched in joy, too, as lost people have been saved and baptized into the fellowship of Christ because Vacation Bible School "graduates" were able to impart the Gospel message with clarity and confidence.

All of this is due in large part to the

lessons we learned at the feet of the spiritual giants who dedicated themselves to serving year after year as our Vacation Bible School teachers.

Ask almost any one of us, and we can recall a great Bible truth that came alive for us because of a special Vacation Bible School teacher.

Of all the opportunities for Christian service, is there one greater than the opportunity to be a Vacation Bible School teacher — to be one of the people who opens the door to Jesus for a child who has never heard the Good News?

Equally important as the front-line teachers, but often overlooked, are the behind-the-scenes support workers.

Someone has to gather the cookies and make Kool-Aid for the mid-morning waves of famished Vacation Bible Schoolers. Someone has to come up with the craft ideas and then locate all the supplies. At the end of the week, someone has to restore the church to pristine condition for next Sunday's services.

Vacation Bible School demands a mobilization that would impress an Army general, a list of volunteers that would exhaust the Red Cross, and a spiritual depth that would take away the breath of the president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

It happens thousands of times each summer across Mississippi, but it might not happen at your church without you. Be in prayer right now that God will reveal your role in this great adventure that is Vacation Bible School.



Don't wait to be approached if enough workers don't sign up — be one of the workers that signs up. There are millions of us out here who thank you.

An apt paraphrase of a popular book title comes to mind: "All I ever needed to know, I learned in Vacation Bible School."

Won't you do your part to make that a reality for the next generation of Christians?

From 1975 until his retirement in the mid-90's, J. C. Bradley served as director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's Associational Administration Department.

In his book, "A Baptist Association," he said, "A Baptist Association is a self-governing fellowship of autonomous churches sharing a common faith and active on Mission together."

The key word is "together." The association works with, and provides assistance to, churches within its "family" of churches, and does so in ways no other collective body of Baptists can.

As a matter of fact, many churches affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention would have no link with other Baptist churches or Baptist organizations, if not for the association.

The association in America predates the Mississippi Baptist Convention by more than a century, and predates the Southern Baptist Convention by almost 140 years.

Conventions do not give life to associations. On the contrary, it is associations that give life to conventions.

Information from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board received week of April 19-25 reported that "the average-sized church in Mississippi has 50 in Sunday School."

Most of these churches will first call the association office when the need arises for programming assistance and resources.

This is not to say that the conventions can't provide the needed programming and resource, but that the trust level and convenience aspect make it more feasible to first

GUEST OPINION:

Associations: a vital link

By Ernest Sadler, director of missions
Jackson Association



CHURCHES in ASSOCIATION

Alive to Missions...



Catch the Vision!

ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS WEEK
MAY 18-24, 1998

contact the associational staff.

We can logically conclude that the association is indeed a vital link between the local church and the state and national conventions.

It is a link that assists the conventions in promoting the much needed and very worthwhile programs they provide.

The association becomes the channel through which these programs are "fleshed out" in the local church, especially smaller churches.

The association also provides training possibilities for local churches, thus helping many church members receive training of which they would otherwise not be able to take advantage.

The association is available to assist churches in seeking staff, though most state conventions have a department designed to help churches in this area, most search committees still rely on the association office for direction in this matter.

The association becomes the vehicle through which a group of autonomous churches can work together to achieve a common goal in the ministry.

The end result is that an association of churches can do more together than the sum total of what those same churches can do acting individually.

It is tragic, when on any level, churches, associations, or conventions become competitors. As Paul demanded, "We are laborers together, with God."

Our mission, together, is to help bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus. In this mission, the association is a vital link.

Pollard presents SBC's 'best invitation,' prof says

FORT WORTH, Texas (ABP and local reports) — "The pastor in the Southern Baptist Convention who is giving the best invitation today is Frank Pollard," insisted Roy Fish, longtime professor of evangelism at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth.

"All of us feel inadequate at this point in the service," when the time comes to ask people to make a commitment, said Pollard, pastor of First Church, Jackson, and a graduate of Southwestern Seminary.

"We've incorporated every way [of responding to Christ] we've ever heard of into our invitation," Pollard explained.

"We present people with three ways to respond."

The first invitation is the traditional walk-the-aisle altar call, he said.

"We invite people to come forward" during the invitation hymn, noted the former president of Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.

"We tell them this is what we would recommend, and we would like for them to come for-

ward so that we can meet them, but we also acknowledge that may be difficult for them to do."

That leads to the two other opportunities for responding.

The second is an invitation to meet with trained counselors in the sanctuary parlor, just outside the auditorium, immediately after the worship service, he said.

"We invite people to this room," Pollard said. "I tell them: 'People are waiting to talk with you about membership in our church, about faith in the Lord Christ, and about ways to help you. We want to help you.'"

The third invitation is an

appeal for people to complete a decision card and place it in the offering plate, which is passed at the conclusion of the service.

Pollard tells people: "This is a way you can make a life commitment to God. Fill out the decision card and put it in the offering plate. ... We'll find you and talk to you."



Pollard

THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST
Record

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WMU's Patterson sets August retirement

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) executive director-treasurer Marjean Patterson has announced that she will retire in August of this year, marking the end of her 41-year career in the Mississippi Baptist women's auxiliary.

Ewilda Fancher of Florence, chair of the ten-member committee that will search for Patterson's replacement, said recommendations and applications for the position will be accepted through June 15.

Atlanta native Patterson arrived in Mississippi in 1957 after legendary Mississippi WMU executive director-treasurer Edwina Robinson invited her to become director of the WMU Young Woman's Auxiliary. She held that position until 1965, when she was given the new responsibility of director of the WMU Woman's Missionary Society.

In 1970, she was appointed WMU director of Baptist women, and in 1971 she was promoted to WMU executive director-treasurer when Robinson retired after 27 years at the helm of the auxiliary.

Patterson was spotlighted in 1992 as Outstanding Alumna of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. She received a master of religious education degree in 1957 from WMU-sponsored Carver School of Missions and Social Work at Southern Seminary, the oldest seminary in the Southern Baptist Convention.

She was also awarded the doctor of humanities degree in 1997 from

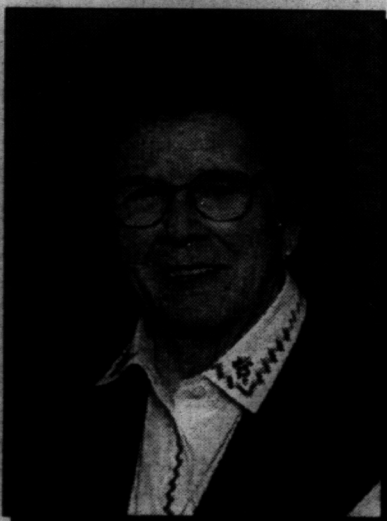
Mississippi Baptist-affiliated Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain.

In addition, she received a master of education degree (1965) from Mississippi Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton and a bachelor of arts degree (1954) from Tennessee Baptist-affiliated Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn.

In 1978 Patterson authored "Covered Foundations," a history of Mississippi WMU. She has also penned numerous articles and training pieces for WMU and Southern Baptist periodicals, as well as weekly Sunday School lesson commentaries in "The Baptist Record."

Patterson, a member of Morrison Heights Church in Clinton, reported that she will continue to reside in Clinton after her retirement although her sister wants her to move back to Atlanta.

"Mississippi is home," she pointed out. Mississippi WMU president Rebecca



Patterson

Williams of Gautier said an event to honor Patterson's long years of WMU service is being planned for July 11 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton.

Additional details regarding the event will be announced later in "The Baptist Record," Williams added.

"Mississippi WMU requests your prayerful help as the Executive Director Search Committee begins its work. The committee is ready to receive both recommendations and applications for the position now open following Patterson's retirement.

"Each recommendation and application will be acknowledged. Each will be fairly and prayerfully considered," Fancher said.

She stressed that the committee will receive materials related to the search by mail only and that all correspondence should be sent by the June 15 deadline to her attention at P.O. Box 428, Florence, MS 39073-0428.

The remaining members of the search committee, selected to represent the nine regional areas of Mississippi WMU work, include:

- Area 1: Yvonne Taylor of Lamar.
- Area 2: Fae Maroon of Belmont.
- Area 3: Jane Blair of Carrollton.
- Area 4: Syble Myers of West Point.
- Area 5: Vicki Heath of Jackson.
- Area 6: Martha Ellen Marler of Harpersville.
- Area 7: Carolyn Kee of Woodville.
- Area 8: Vivian Taylor of Clara.
- Area 9: Karen Blalack of Gulfport.

Miss. CP shows April rise

Mississippi Baptists had their fourth-highest giving month in history with April's gifts to the Cooperative Program (CP), according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board which disburses the funds.

The total for April was \$2,563,035. This amount is less than only that given in January 1996 and 1997, with \$2,586,166 and \$2,922,651, respectively; and \$2,621,974 for July of 1997.

Total giving for 1998 is \$8,884,872, which is \$97,141 or 1.08% less than that given for the same period of 1997.

However, 1998 giving is \$369,336, or 4.34% ahead of budget goals for the year. If the 1998 Cooperative Program budget of \$25,546,608 was given in equal increments each month, the total through April would only be \$8,515,536.

The Cooperative Program helped fund such ministries as the Mission Friends Fair at Camp Garaywa on May 16; the Associational Leadership Training Conferences in six locations on May 18, 19, and 21; and the upcoming singles conference and senior adult conferences at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian.

SBC CP takes April dip

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program (CP) receipts for April declined more than 16% compared to the previous year's April, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee. For the fiscal year, however, receipts remain above the previous year by .46%.

For the month of April 1998, a total of \$11,903,309 was received, compared to the same month of 1997 of \$14,299,668, a decrease of 16.76% or \$2,396,359.

After seven months of the SBC fiscal year, October through April, CP gifts total \$91,241,293 compared to the same period last year of \$90,819,060, an increase of .46% or \$422,232.

Designated gifts for April also declined compared to the same month a year ago: \$9,193,432 compared to \$10,046,351, a decrease of 8.49% or \$852,918.

For the fiscal year, however, designated gifts total \$104,479,592 compared to the same period a year ago of \$97,944,314, an increase of 6.67% or \$6,535,278.

Exec. Comm. seeking nominations

Since being elected as executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), Bill Causey has led, worked with, and challenged Mississippi Baptists in carrying out our mission of bringing Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

As you know, Dr. Causey has announced his retirement effective September 30, 1998.

You have given the MBCB executive committee the responsibility of submitting to you a nominee for your election as executive secretary.

We believe that God has invited us to work with him to recommend the person he has chosen for this position.

The assignment will require faith and action. If we will obey God, his will shall be accomplished. Would you please pray daily for each member of the executive committee?

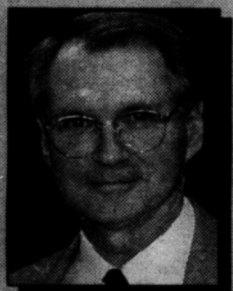
You are invited to submit to us, in writing, the name, address, and telephone number of any person you feel would be qualified to serve as executive secretary.

Please send the letter to the address listed below.

The executive committee will contact, by letter, each person you nominate and they will be asked to submit a resume to the executive committee.

June 4, 1998, has been set as the cutoff date for receiving nominations. June 18, 1998, has been set as the cutoff date for nominees to submit their resumes.

Robert K. Upchurch
Chairman
MBCB Executive Committee
P.O. Drawer 409
Tupelo, MS 38802



Upchurch

By Tim Nicholas
MBCB Communication Director

During the last weekend in May, Tunica will be "blitzed" for missions.

The north Mississippi town will be the site of a health fair, day camps, a tent revival, a basketball clinic, home repair, and a senior adult rally.

The Tunica Missions Blitz, as the weekend is being called, is the product of the equipping and witness teams of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

North Delta Association, which is headquartered in Clarksdale and includes Tunica County among its membership, is a partner in the project.

The purpose of the blitz is to provide a missions outreach to Tunica County, including a direct witness to Jesus Christ.

The health fair, directed by Mary Holyfield, president of the Mississippi Baptist Nursing Fellowship, will bring in groups of nurses from Mississippi and Alabama.

The nurses will provide blood pressure screening, vision screening, cholesterol checks, and blood sugar screening.

Breast self-examination will be taught and the nurses will discuss prevention of heart disease.

Also, there will be literature available on a variety of health issues.

The clinic will take place May 30 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the north end of the Methodist Hospital. On-site coordinator will be nurse Pam Perry of Tunica County.

Jackie Verell, a nurse from Tupelo, will work with senior citizens in Tunica on May 25-June 1, providing blood pressure checks.

M.C. Johnson, director of missions for the North Delta association, said 28 Alabama

nurses will conduct health fairs and day camps in Quitman and Coahoma counties — the other two members of the association — on May 27-29. The group will distribute hundreds of health kits during the week.

A crusade will take place May 29-31, beginning each evening at 7 p.m. in a tent located just off Highway 61 across from Rosa Fort High School in Tunica. Johnson said the tent will hold 700 people.

A number of churches, some with predominantly white congregations and some with predominantly African-American congregations, are planning to cancel Sunday evening services to increase participation.

MBCB Evangelism Director S. A. "Sonny" Adkins will preach on May 29 and 31 with John Wells, an evangelist from First Church, Crystal Springs, leading the music.

Arthur Siggers, pastor of Mt. Olive Church, Hattiesburg, will preach on May 30 with Tito Lanier, minister of music at Mt. Olive Church, leading the music.

The Baptist disaster relief team from Holmes County, a part of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force, will feed up to 800 volunteers and participants in the blitz on May 30.

On May 31, volunteers will canvass Tunica, witnessing for Jesus Christ. First Church, Tunica, will feed the volunteers.

The basketball clinic — for both boys and girls — will take place at Rosa Fort High School's new gymnasium on May 30.

Junior high school students are invited to participate from 9-12 a.m., and a clinic for senior high school students will be held that afternoon from 1-4 p.m.

Tom Prather, MBCB alert the world coordinator, said blitz organizers are planning to distribute T-shirts and tracts to every participant.

Basketball coaches involved in the clinics include Steve Rives, Delta State University men's head coach; Bubba Skelton, men's coach at Northwest Mississippi Community College; Mike Lewis, men's coach at Northeast Mississippi Community College; and Bo Gore, coach at Manchester Academy in Yazoo City.

Five volunteer teams will repair five homes that have been chosen by local authorities. The volunteers will remove and replace a kitchen ceiling, replace wiring, install new front steps, paint, and repair roofs.

The volunteers, who will work on May 29-30, were recruited by the MBCB Brotherhood Department.

A free program for area senior adults will take place at the Tunica Community Center Complex beginning at 10 a.m. on June 1.

Registration opens at 9 a.m. with crafts displays and demonstrations. The Mississippi Baptist Foundation will provide refreshments.

The program adjourns at noon, when a free catfish lunch will be provided by local catfish farmers.

Program personalities include the Shows family of singers (Glenn, Kathy, Krista, and Anna); John Bewley, retired minister of activities at Broadmoor Church, Jackson, performing magic; the senior adult choir from Trinity Church, Southaven; Pam Bell of Bogalusa, La., singing and sharing her testimony; and Gwen Williams of New Orleans will tell stories and sing.

Another volunteer group from South Carolina will work during the Tunica blitz and will stay through the following week to do follow-up work with spiritual decision-makers and help finish the housing repair work projects.

Mississippi CBF, national group plan meetings

The Mississippi Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) will support ten

Yanadi men and women in India who are preparing to minister among the people of their own country, under a mission project approved at the Fall 1997 Mississippi CBF meeting.

James and Robbi Francovich, CBF missionaries in India who will lead the project, will report on their mission work at a 10:30 a.m. meeting on May 21 at Howard Johnson restaurant in Brookhaven. A luncheon meal will follow at a cost of \$6.50 per person with no reservations required.

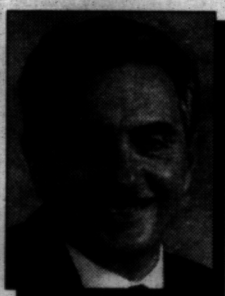
The southwest region of Mississippi CBF is sponsoring this event. For more information, contact Glen Williams in McComb at (601) 684-0971.

The 1998 General Assembly of the national Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) will be held June 25-27 at Astrohall in Houston, Texas.

The assembly will feature over 100 workshops in such areas as spiritual formation, family worship, Christian education, and missions. In addition, there will be:

- ◆ Simultaneous worship opportunities in three languages.
- ◆ Church Leadership Institute with Roberta Bondi.
- ◆ Passport Youth Convention.
- ◆ Global Missions Celebration.
- ◆ Hands-on local missions projects.
- ◆ Theological Education Fellowship meeting.
- ◆ Closing communion service.

Registration fee is \$15 per person (\$10 per student), with a \$25 family maximum. Registration must be mailed by June 10. Children's day camp and childcare will be available. For more information or a registration form, contact national CBF at (770) 220-1600 or Mississippi CBF at (601) 355-7824.



J. Francovich



R. Francovich

MC announces trio of new deans

Mississippi College (MC) President Howell W. Todd has announced the appointment of three new deans at the 172 year-old, Baptist-affiliated college in Clinton. All the appointments are effective June 1.

Ronald W. Howard, professor of history and former chair of the department of history and political science, has been named dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Howard will replace Glen Eaves, who is retiring.

Howard is a graduate of Carson-Newman University in Tennessee and the University of Tennessee.

He joined the MC faculty in 1977, and was named MC's Distinguished Professor of the Year in 1983.

He served as chair of the department of history and political science from 1991-94.

Debbie C. Norris, assistant dean of the School of Business, has been named dean of the Graduate School. She will replace Edward McMillan, who is retiring.

Norris is a graduate of the School of Business at MC. She is also a graduate of Mississippi State University and the University of Mississippi. Norris has been a member of

the MC faculty since 1984.

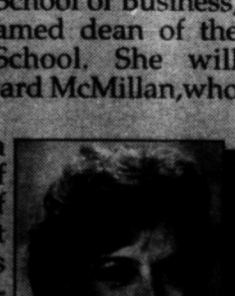
She has served as a member of the Faculty Council and the Core Curriculum Committee, and she is currently professor in residence in London for the MC's Spring 1998 London Semester Program.

Don W. Locke, currently professor of education and associate dean of the School of Education at Northeast Louisiana University, has been named dean of the School of Education.

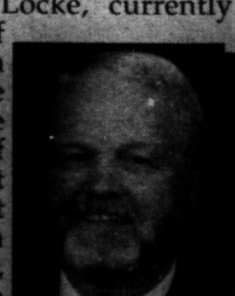
He will replace Tom Taylor, who has resigned effective at the end of the current academic year.



Howard



Norris



Locke

Mormon columnist hoping for special reunion

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (BP) — At least one member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is looking forward to the arrival of thousands of Southern Baptists in Salt Lake City for this June's SBC annual meeting.

He especially hopes to see a man who made a profound impression on him as a boy, a man he remembers as "John the Baptist" in Brigham City, Utah. John Embery, is now an Albuquerque pastor and New Mexico missions leader.

The young boy on which Embery left a favorable impression now is a columnist for the *Deseret News*, an LDS-owned newspaper in Salt Lake City.

The two met in Brigham City, where Embery was pastor of First Church from 1962-73.

Embery gained credibility in the community, and he was appointed to several community organizations, including the mayor's committee on drug abuse, the mayor's committee on senior adult affairs, the Red Cross board and the Northern Utah Family Life Committee.

"I intended to be a part of the community, to make a contribution and be a part of the lives of people — regardless of their religion," said Embery, who was president of the pastors' conference of the new Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention in 1964-1965 and president of the convention from 1965-67 and

1987-88, when he had moved to the pastorate of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Boise, Idaho.

"If you want to encounter people, you have to be where they are or invite them to be where you are," said Embery.

Johnston remembered, "The message that day — interestingly enough — was about missionary work. The talk was full of all of those missionary terms that make non-believers jittery."

"(Embery) did move a little like John Wayne, I remember, but he didn't sound like John Wayne."

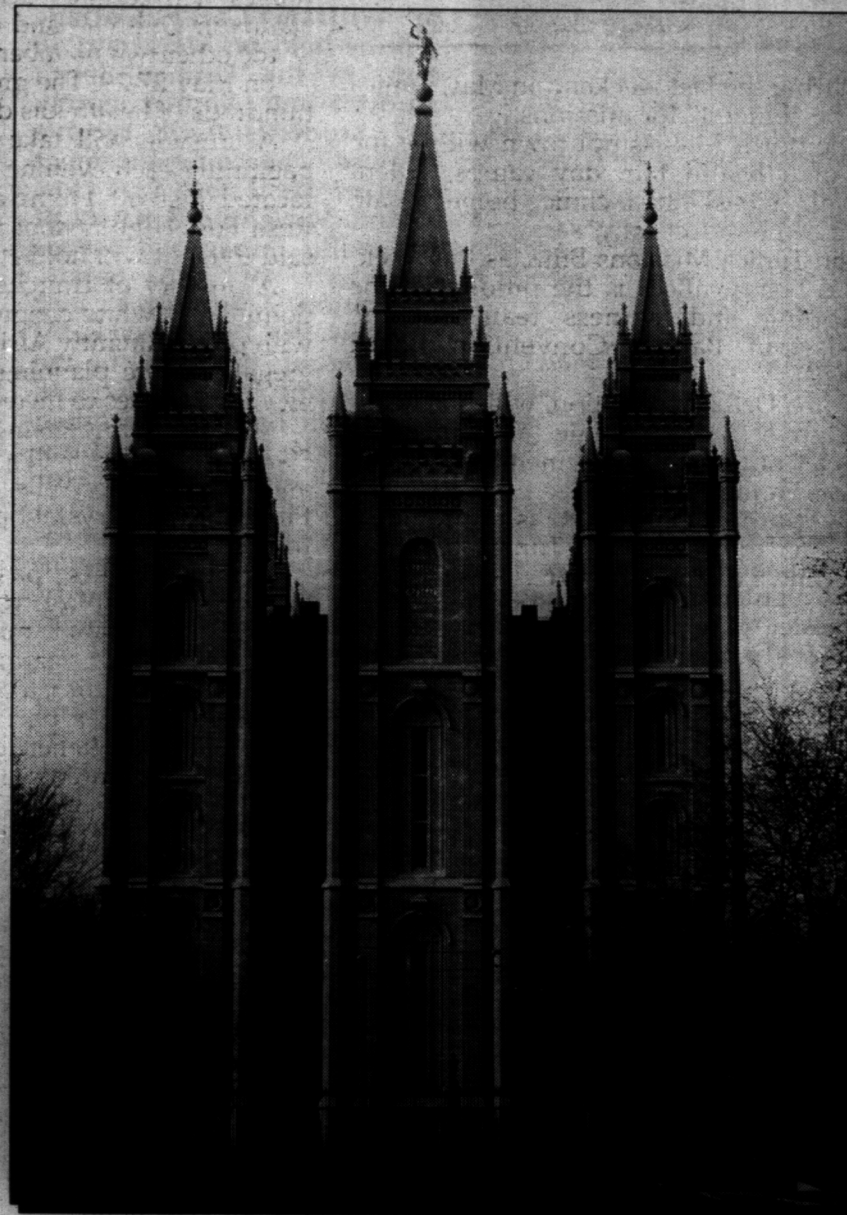
"He sounded more like John the Beloved," Johnston recounted. "and for a few moments, I was capable of following John Embery pretty much anywhere."

Johnston admitted to hearing some unfavorable talk about Baptists through the years, but because of Embery, "the jibes I've heard have all gone down with a grain of salt. I know better."

How does Johnston feel about several thousand Southern Baptists walking the streets of Salt Lake City this June?

"Because of the Rev. Embery, I'm anxiously awaiting (their) arrival ... They'll be bringing many things to share. And they'll be bringing a lot of good people to share them."

"Who knows?" he wrote hopefully. "They may even be bringing Brigham City's John the Baptist."



Mormon Temple, Salt Lake City

Lottie Moon offering goal gets boost

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Due to the anticipated success of the 1997 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, the Woman's Missionary Union executive board has approved raising the 1998 LMCO goal from \$100,000,000 to \$110,000,000.

International Mission Board officials projected in March that receipts to the 1997 LMCO would reach \$102.6 million when the books close in May. The projection means that receipts to the annual offering for international missions will meet the goal for the first time since 1981 and will surpass \$100 million for the first time in history.

WMU has maintained the \$100 million goal for the Lottie Moon offering since 1995. The goal jumped from \$86 million in 1994 to \$100 million in 1995 in honor of the sesquicentennial of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Analysis: 'Titanic' gives skewed picture of love

By Terry Mattingly
BP Contributing Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Soon after "Titanic" opened in the United States, director James Cameron ventured into cyberspace to field questions from waves of stricken fans.

One mother described how her young daughter sat spellbound through the three-hour-plus romance between a first-class girl trapped in a loveless engagement with a cruel fiancé and a starving artist who liberates her, then surrenders his life to save her in the icy North Atlantic.

As they left the theater, the mother said her daughter noticed older girls weeping.

"It's OK, don't worry," the child said, giving one girl a hug. "Rose is with her Jack now."

"That's so sweet," wrote Cameron. Nevertheless, he told another participant in the Online Tonight session that he wouldn't answer one common question: Did the now-elderly Rose die in the last scene, to be reunited with her lover aboard the Titanic in a vision of heaven, or was she merely dreaming?

As he immersed himself in Titanic lore, Cameron said he reached one conclusion. "I think I discovered the truth of its lesson — which is all you have is today."

In another public statement, he described his film in more sweeping terms.

"Titanic" is not just a cautionary tale — a myth, a parable, a metaphor for the ills of mankind. It is also a story of faith, courage, sacrifice and, above all else, love," he said.

With receipts of \$1.2 billion and rising,

"Titanic" has filled a hole in the hearts of millions of romance-starved moviegoers who have made the 11-Oscar movie and top-grossing film of all time.

Whether Cameron intended to or not, Hollywood's most successful movie of all time also has changed how at least one generation views one of this century's most symbolic events.

For millions, the Titanic is now a triumphant story of how one upper-crust girl found salvation — body and soul — through sex, modern art, self-esteem lingo, and social rebellion.

"Titanic" is a passion play celebrating the moral values of the 1960s as sacraments.

Rose sums it up by saying that she could abandon her old life and family because her forbidden lover "saved me in every way that a person can be saved."

Millions are walking their children down theater aisles, often making many such pilgrimages, in support of this cathartic message about the power of romantic love.

Major religious groups that have greeted similar films with howls of protest are silent. A few people wonder why.

"Titanic" reminds me of the distinctions between people of faith and secularists," said conservative commentator Elizabeth Farah.

"While all agree that death is inevitable and very often unexpected, the religious and secularists do not agree on the behavior life's fragility should promote."

"Those of faith know they may meet their Maker at any moment, at which time

they will account for their sins.

"Their fear and deep love for God inspires them in their constant struggle for righteousness. To the secularist, life is short — get what you want — when you want it, and in whatever way necessary," she said.

The heroes of this modern "Titanic" fit into this latter category, said Farah.

Their sins become virtues, because they are rebelling against people who are portrayed as even worse.

This isn't just a bad movie, she added, it is "manipulative" and "fundamentally immoral."

Father Patrick Henry Reardon, a philosophy professor and Orthodox priest, goes even further in the next issue of the ecumenical journal "Touchstone." He calls the movie "satanic."

The people who built the Titanic were so proud of their command of technology that they boasted that God couldn't sink their ship.

Today, the creators of the movie "Titanic" substitute romantic love as the highest power.

Jack becomes Rose's savior and he does more than save her life.

"Had that been all that happened, I would not have complained," said Reardon.

"The line that set me off I believe also to have been the ... defining line of the film: the assertion that the sort of saving that Jack did was, ultimately, the only kind of saving possible."

"If that was the thesis statement of the film, then I start looking for the cloven hoof and sniffing for brimstone."

'Choose Life' license OK'd in Florida

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) — Barring a veto from Gov. Lawton Chiles, Floridians will be able to purchase a "Choose Life" license plate by the end of 1998. Florida legislators approved the specialty license plate bill by a vote of 28-12 in the Senate and 77-41 in the House of Representatives.

Funds from the tag are to be distributed to private agencies whose role is to meet the pregnant woman's physical needs. The measure excludes those who provide abortion-related counseling, clinic referrals, advertising or for-profit services. The bill specifies that at least 70% of the funds be earmarked for material needs such as food, clothing, and shelter. The remaining funds could be used for the adoption process, except for administrative or legal expenses.



Students purchase CDs and T-shirts after Gamma Chi's Battle of the Bands held at William Carey College (WCC) recently. Contemporary Christian bands performed for the crowd and from audience reaction a winner was chosen. "Something Real," consisting of members of Grace Covenant Church in Hattiesburg, placed first. "Groove," with members from Jones County Junior College, placed second, and "Restored Vision," with members from WCC, placed third.



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1. Lord, I admit that I need you. *(I have sinned.)*
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. *(I repent.)*
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. *(I believe in Jesus.)*
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. *(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)*

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for

William Carey College will hold registration for the summer trimester May 29 from 8 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. on the Hattiesburg campus. Summer Term I will begin June 1 and end July 3. Summer Term II will begin July 6 and end Aug. 7. For more information, contact the Registrar's Office at (601) 582-6195.

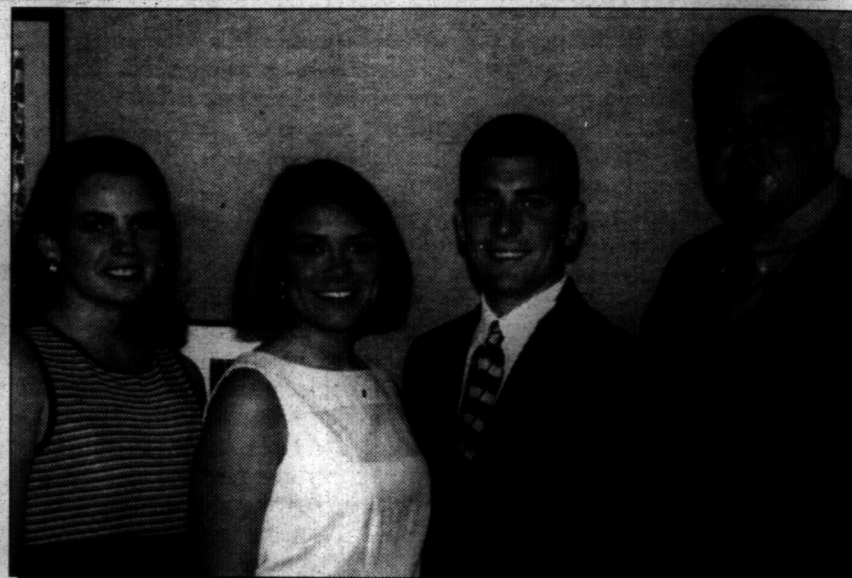
Mississippi College to host three camps this summer on campus. Baseball Day Camp, June 8-11, will be held from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. each day, and is open to boys ages 8-13. The Lady Chocs Basketball Day Camp, June 1-4, open to all girls in grades 1-5, will be conducted from 8 a.m. until noon each day. Also, the Choctaw Super Hoops Overnight Basketball Camp, July 12-16, is for boys in grades 6-12. For more information, contact the Office of Continuing Education at (601) 925-3263.

Commencement exercises at William Carey College will be held on May 16 at 10 a.m. in the Dumas Smith Auditorium. Approximately 247 students will receive degrees. The commencement speaker will be Lt. Gov. Ronnie Musgrove. A native of Batesville, Musgrove serves as chair of the Senate Education Committee and oversaw the 1997 passage of the funding program for the Mississippi Adequate Education Program designed to provide a quality educational opportunity for Mississippi's children. Cloyd Ezell, vice president for academic affairs, will present candidates and Larry Kennedy, interim president, will confer degrees.

Freshman orientation and registration for students entering William Carey College will be held June 23 on campus. Transfer orientation will be held July 14. Check-in begins at 8:15 a.m. in the Thomas Fine Arts Lobby for both orientations. Opening session begins at 9 a.m., followed by sessions that will offer students and parents information on a variety of topics including financial aid, academics, student life, and spiritual life. Advisement and registration will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the auditorium. For more information, contact the Admissions Office at (601) 582-6208 or (800) 962-5991, extension 208.



Daniel and Wheeler



Dowdle, Martin, Parker, Lucas



Lucas, Hurst, Kennedy

The annual Honors Day ceremony was held recently at William Carey College. This is a time set aside for students and faculty to be given awards and honored for their achievements, and for scholarship donors and recipients to be recognized. **Brett Daniel** of Hattiesburg (top photo, left) received the Allen Williams Award. The award is given to the athlete who shows Christian character and leadership abilities and is named in memory of Allen Williams of Petal, a former member of the Crusader baseball team. The award was presented by Milton Wheeler, professor of history (right).

Mr. and Miss William Carey College, **Ginger Martin** of Vicksburg and **Brian Parker** of Morton; were presented. Pictured (middle photo, left to right) are Student Government Association (SGA) vice president **Laura Ann Dowdle** of Brandon; Martin; Parker; and **Brian Lucas**, SGA president.

Brian Lucas (bottom photo, from left) and **Alyssa Hurst** of Hattiesburg were awarded the Jenkins-Chastain Citizenship Award by Larry Kennedy, interim president. This award served as the highest honor given by the college as it recognizes the man and woman who have made the most significant contribution to student and college life in exemplifying those qualities of citizenship upheld by the college.

REVIVAL DATES

Shiloh, Oxford: May 17-20; 7 p.m. nightly; Donald R. Dunavant, Mid-America Seminary, evangelist; Phillip Griffin, Laurel, music; Ronnie Mayes, interim pastor.

Green's Creek, Petal: May 17-20; Sunday, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bill Sturm, Tulsa, Okla., evangelist; Mark King, Green's Creek Church, music; Mike Routon, pastor.

Shiloh (Carroll): May 31-June 6; homecoming, Sunday, 11 a.m., followed by dinner; 7 p.m., weeknight services; Grady Woods, Clay County, guest speaker; Doug Warren, pastor at Shiloh, music.

Mt. Vernon and Amite River, Liberty: joint revival; Mt. Vernon, May 15 and 17; Amite River, May 16; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Jerry Nance, Amite, La., evangelist; Jerry and Faith Nance, music; Bobby Stults, pastor.

Midway, Jackson: May 17-20; Sunday, 10:15 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Mark Price, Texas, evangelist; Tom Larrimore, Jackson, music; Charles Hardy, pastor.

Union Chapel (Lee): May 17-22; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Al Gaspard, Houston, evangelist; Marion Holley, pastor.

County Line (Attala): June 7-10; 7 p.m. nightly; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Larry M. Harvey, West, evangelist; Robby Robertson, Sallis, music; Mark Pilgrim, pastor.

Harmontown, Como: held a youth revival, April 26. High attendance goal for Sunday School was 160 with 180 attending; Gary Wright with Wrighteous Ministries, Trussville, Ala., evangelist.

HOMECOMINGS

Bellevue (Pontotoc): May 17; 11 a.m.; noon fellowship meal and afternoon singing; George Steward, guest speaker; Lamar Pickens, pastor.

Sand Ridge, Lake: May 17; 11 a.m.; noon meal; afternoon singing; Ray Mosley, guest speaker; Living Water, guest singers.

CHURCH/STATE MIRAGE

Editor:

Because of the steady diet of immorality fed our children in the public schools for the last several generations, have we become the most perverse nation in the world? Aren't we indeed a true reflection of Sodom and Gomorrah?

Since every resolution brought before any legislative body has its moral facets, this insurmountable wall that is as high as the sky and as wide as the ocean, that has been erected between church and state, is a mirage.

The two are intimately joined but these evil ones have used this phantom to bring us all to the brink of destruction.

Today it is forbidden to voice the Lord's name and tomorrow religion will be banned from the face of the earth.

If martyrdom for the right be my destiny, I embrace it. I for one will fight to the death to put God back into our society and schools.

Ban satanism from our schools. I would strongly urge our beloved people to take a like stance.

When will our beloved people awake from the stupor?

Could it be that one of the causes for tragedies like Jonesboro is that they teach our beloved children in the schools today that the flowers and the trees and the birds and the bees are more sacred than human life?

Euchlich McKenn
Reisterstown, MD

FINDING NEW EXEC

Editor:

The executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) is retiring.

What are the chances that he will be replaced with a preacher?

It is significant that those with the spiritual gifts of prophecy-teaching are assumed to have the gifts of financial management, administration, and personnel management.

Rarely, if ever, is this the case in spite of what preachers think.

Recently you had an article about Charles Stanley and his marital problems.

Didn't he write a book about how to have a good marriage? Isn't this ridiculous? No more than ascribing various gifts to people just because they have the gift of prophecy.

I don't have the gift of prophecy but let me prophesy: "Once again a preacher will be the executive director-treasurer of the MBCB. He will have been president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

"Some church will lose a good preacher and Mississippi Baptists will get someone lacking in qualifications."

Ray A. Thompson
Jackson

MONEY ROOT OF EVIL

Editor:

Revelations makes it clear that the empire of Satan is based upon money.

Rev. 13:17 states that you can not buy or sell without the mark. Rev. 18:3 states that the merchants of the earth waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. Rev. 18:17 states in one hour so great riches is come to naught.

You can see from these scriptures that money is the power of Satan.

Rev. 12:9 states that Satan was cast out of heaven and his angels with him. Verses 12-17 states that Satan and his angels are on earth and they are making war on Christians.

Revelations states that there are three unclean spirits that go to all the earth making war on Christians.

Rev. 12:12 states woe unto you of earth and sea, for the devil has come down unto you in great wrath because he knows his time is short.

Rev. 13:7 states he was allowed to make war on the saints and overcome them.

Second Corinthians 11:14 states Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

The Satan-worshipping organizations have infiltrated the Baptists and they are leading our children away for morals into earthly things.

They are taking over Lauderdale County economically and politically.

Preachers refuse to preach against them because they will lose their jobs.

The coward deacons and preachers fall headlong into a pit because God has placed a stumbling stone before these blind leaders.

The street gangs will destroy the United States in the end and no one will provide any help.

Bobby Carl Hill
Collinsville

HONORING MOTHER

Editor:

At the Honors Convocation at Blue Mountain College on April 18, a scholarship was announced in honor of my mother, The Eunice James

Bryant Scholarship, to be awarded annually to enable a minister's wife to attend college along with her husband.

She is the epitome of Proverbs 31:10-31 — an excellent/virtuous wife and mother.

She has served individual churches, associations, and Mississippi Baptists faithfully.

She is a model for other wives, mothers, and denominational leaders.

Her lack of formal education has always concerned Mom.

I know of nothing that would honor her more than to be able to help other ministers' wives achieve a goal that seemed beyond her reach through the Eunice James Bryant Scholarship at Blue Mountain College.

Mother's influence has spread to my husband and children. We automatically offer each other "Grammy" statements and questions when there are questions or problems to be resolved: (1) What would Jesus do? (2) "Let this mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus..." and (3) "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart...lean not unto thine own understanding..."

Those three reminders sum up my mom and her life — Christ-centered, Christ-like, and God-directed.

Charlotte Bryant Madison
Opelika, Ala.

REMEMBER JONESBORO

Editor:

Only a short time ago, an eleven-year-old and a thirteen-year-old went to their school and shot dead four of their fellow students and a teacher. They also wounded several others.

Public officials and parents alike have expressed dismay over the horror, and have wondered what would've caused mere children to commit cold, premeditated murder.

Without knowing anything more about the murderers or their victims than the general public knows, I say that one of the causes could have been that the cumulative effect of school-related prayer hasn't been allowed at the institution.

Perhaps if some regular form of collective prayer had been allowed for years at school, the idea of accountability to a higher power and the concept of the power of love would've been strong enough to have tipped the scales in the young minds against violence.

In other words, had not the nation's high court taken it on itself to prohibit collective prayer in schools, perhaps those children and the teacher in Jonesboro, and the as yet untargated children of the future, would still be alive and will remain alive.

I only hope that, should the case for collective prayer in schools come up again, someone will remember the Jonesboro dead and injured.

Donald R. James
Plaquemine, La.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

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The FAITH Sunday School Evangelism Strategy is a cooperative evangelistic venture of the North American Mission Board and The Sunday School Board.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



Gulf Coast Baptist Association (GCBA) held ground breaking services April 26 for an office complex and training center at a cost of \$392,000. Pictured (from left) are Ed Holmes, vice moderator; Charlie Delk, chairman, building committee; Jake Swanson, chairman, financial committee; Chris Crighton, J. W. Puckett Builders; Dianne Hayard, Harkock Bank; Bobby Perry, executive director, GCBA; and Don Ball, moderator.

Medical plan rates will rise 5% July 1

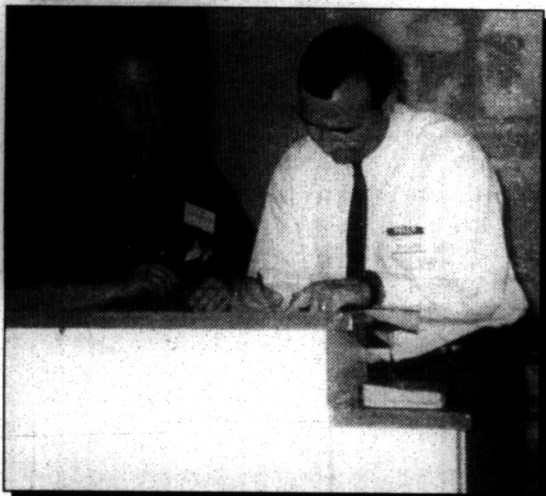
DALLAS (BP)—Southern Baptist ministers and other church employees and seminarians covered by the Personal Security Program (PSP) medical plans will see rates for coverage rise 5% on July 1, the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention announced today. Participants were advised in November 1997 that a mid-year increase in 1998 was possible.

Outside consultants observed that medical costs nationwide have risen 49% in the years since 1992, but the Annuity Board raised general rates only once, by 7.6% in January 1996.

Bills for June 1998 coverage, being mailed the first week of May, will have a notice of the increase, and letters will go to participants about the middle of the month. The July bills, mailed in early June, will reflect the new rates.

Short Creek Church, Yazoo County, will have Friendship Day, May 17. Activities include Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch, 12 noon; and 1:30 p.m. service. Norris Ables is pastor.

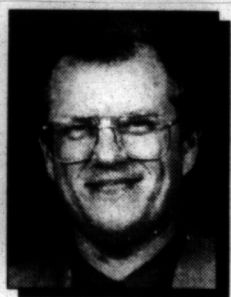
Hurley Church, Jackson, will have Lay Renewal Weekend May 15-17. Breaux Tagueant is pastor. For more information, contact the church office at (228) 588-3435.



Raymond Road Church, Jackson, and **Harvest Church, Salisbury, Maryland**, recently entered into a four-year partnership. Harvest Church is a new church plant. Pictured are (from left) Mike Fortenberry, pastor of Harvest Church, and Jim Burnett, pastor of Raymond Road Church.

STAFF CHANGES

Harmontown Church, Como, has called **Alben Gaston** as pastor effective May 3. Gaston is attending Mid-America Seminary where he is pursuing a Ph.D. in missions. During the past eight months while under the leadership of Jimmy



Gaston

First Church, Kosciusko, will observe Founder's Day on June 14 in honor of the ministry of W. W. Nash, who, along with a few pioneer families, organized the church in 1848. Nash Noble will present special music and the drama committee will present a skit written by Margaret M. White depicting the W. W. Nash family at the 11 a.m. worship service. The Nash/Davis/Campbell reunion will be held at the church on June 12, 13, and 14. For more information, contact Joy Patterson at 288 Mikell Street, Jackson, MS 39212, telephone (601) 372-5911.

Van Winkle Church, Jackson, will celebrate its 60th anniversary on May 16 and 17. A reception will be on May 16 from 6-8 p.m. Activities on May 17 will include praise and worship service, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.; catered lunch, 12:15-1:15 p.m.; and fellowship service,

Sparks, interim pastor, the church has had 15 additions with 12 by baptism.

Walnut Grove Church, Walnut Grove, welcomed **Dennis Ellingburg** as its new minister of youth on May 3. A native of Leesburg, Ellingburg is currently a student at Mississippi College. He previously served as youth pastor at White Oak Church, Raleigh.

MS Positions Available

MEADOW GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH, Brandon, is looking for a part-time Children's Minister. Please send resume to PO Box 794, Brandon, MS 39043. For further information call the church office: 601-825-5704.

FULL-TIME DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND EDUCATION: First Baptist Byram. Send resume to 7541 Siwell Road, Jackson, MS 39212.

Write with Confidence and Courage is the theme of the Glorieta Christian Writers Conference, Nov. 10-14. "This comprehensive writers conference is designed for the established writer as well as the person just exploring the possibility," says Glorieta writers conference director Mona Gansberg Hodgson. Tuition for the complete conference is

\$250. To register by phone, or for a free brochure, call (800) 797-4222 or (505) 757-6161.

Baptist Memorial Health Care, Memphis, through the University of Tennessee, is offering a course geared to educate health care professionals in training about spirituality in medicine. "Awareness of Spirituality in the Treatment of Patients," is a five-week course taught in five two-hour sessions. The first session focuses on the historical relationship between religion and medicine; the second session addresses health care professionals' awareness of the effect of religion on medical treatment; the

third session covers assessing patients' spiritual needs and resources; and the fourth and fifth sessions address the appropriate use of information discovered in the assessment of spiritual needs and resources. The course, developed by the Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation Pastoral Care Department, was made possible by a grant from the Baptist Memorial Health Care Foundation. For more information, contact the Baptist Pastoral Care office at (901) 227-5471.



Harrisville Church, Harrisville, had a special baptismal service on March 1. The church is without a pastor at the present time, so two of its deacons conducted the service. Kyle Neely (left) was baptized by his father, Alan Neely. Ashley Berry and Jonathan McKay (right) were both baptized by their grandfather, Guy Crawford. These young people were saved while watching the live presentation of "Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames" at Harmony Church, Crystal Springs.

1:30-3 p.m. For more information, call Patricia May at (601) 372-2950 or 965-8516.

Baptist College of Health Sciences, Memphis, is now accepting applications for its 1998-99 Presidential Scholarships. This prestigious \$2,500 scholarship is designed to reward five entering freshmen who are high academic achievers in high school and who are motivated to succeed in the health care field. Last year, scholarship winners were from Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Illinois. Up to five one-year awards of \$2,500 will be awarded. Deadline for submission of applications is May

15, 1998. For more information about the college application process, and about the Presidential Scholarships, contact the admission office at (901) 227-4330 or (800) 796-7171.

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ministry of First Baptist Church 1-850-234-0488 for details.

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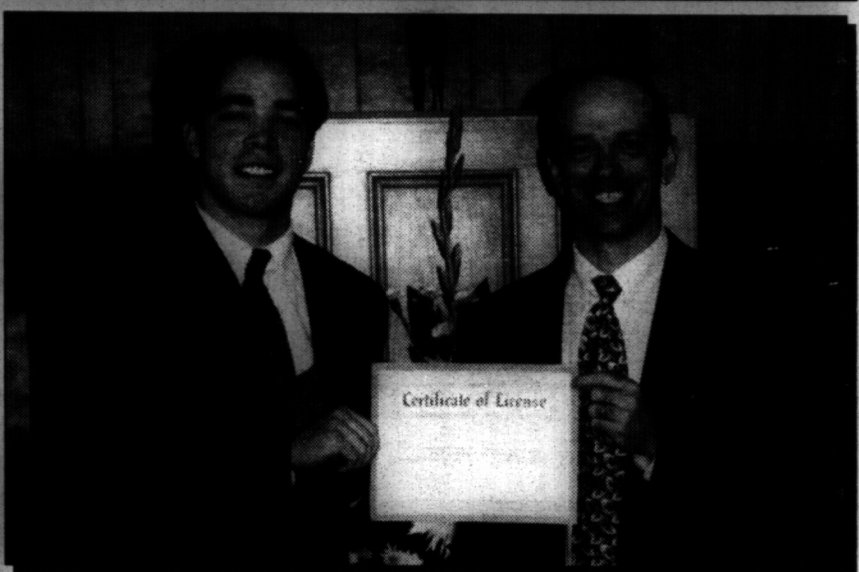
NAMES IN THE NEWS



Union Chapel Church, Lee County, ordained **David Davis** as deacon on March 29. Pictured (from left) are Marion Holley, pastor; Davis; Carruth Wilson, deacon.



Neely Church, Greene Association, recently held ordination services for newly elected deacons. Pictured (from left) are Charles Garner, pastor, Richard Culp, Alan Breland, and Jimmie Dunnam.



Brad Lytle (left) was licensed to the gospel ministry April 26. He will be graduating high school this year, and will begin his college work at Blue Mountain College in the Fall. Lytle is a member of Bethel Church, Columbus. Pictured with Lytle is Walter Butler, pastor of Bethel Church.

Hollis and Eunice Bryant on March 21 were honored by the Interfaith Witness Division Team of the North American Mission Board. Jimmy Furr, regional director with the Interfaith Witness Team, presented a plaque to them for their twenty-year involvement in Interfaith work. This involvement has led them to several states including Canada and Alaska to share about interfaith witness. They have spoken at Glorieta and Ridgecrest and have led in many WMU, associational, and state meetings. "The Bryants truly have been ambassadors for Christ in every sense of the word. I am grateful that I have had the opportunity to work with them for almost ten years. Thank you, Hollis and Eunice," said Furr.



SWBTS music
dean emeritus
McKinney dies

Fort Worth, Texas (BP) — James McKinney, dean emeritus of Southwestern Seminary's school of church music and distinguished professor of voice, died from cancer-related complications at his Fort Worth, Texas, home April 12. He was 77. McKinney taught at Southwestern 44 years and was dean of the school of church music 27 years, serving at the seminary from 1950-94.

Older Children's Retreat registration now closed

Registration has now closed for the 1998 Older Children's Retreat July 16-18 at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian, due to popular demand that filled all available slots in less than two months. Registration for the 1999 Older Children's Retreat, to be held at Gulfshore July 22-24, 1999, will open on March 1, 1999. Early registration is strongly recommended for the 1999 retreat, which is a study of Proverbs entitled, "Wiseguys!" For more information, contact Linda Reeves, consultant in the MBCB Sunday School Department, at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Monument Drive Church, **Tupelo,** recently licensed **Brad VunCannon** to the ministry. VunCannon, son of **Wayne** and **Edith VunCannon** of **Baldwyn,** plans to attend **Blue Mountain College** in the fall. Pictured with **Brad** (left) are **George Francis** (center), chairman of deacons, and **Tommy Tackett** (right), pastor.

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Brister accepts OBU top job

SHAWNEE, Okla. (BP) — Oklahoma Baptist University (OBU) trustees in a special called meeting April 27 elected Mark A. Brister, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Shreveport, La., as OBU's 14th president. Brister will become president-elect effective Aug. 1 and will assume the presidency when Bob R. Agee retires, effective Sept. 1.

Agee, OBU president since 1982, will become president emeritus, continuing to assist OBU with the leadership transition and with fund-raising and alumni relationships. Agee also has been elected as executive director of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools.

By Jamie Vickers
Contributing Writer

Since its beginnings in 1984, Christival — a three-day revival in late January or early February — has grown to become a popular Christian event on the Mississippi State University (MSU) campus in Starkville, attracting 500-600 participants in 1998.

Three or four campus ministry groups came together for the first-ever Christival. Now, eight campus ministries are involved in this special time of worship — Baptist Student Union (BSU), Campus Crusade, Catholic Student Association, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Greek Council for Christ, Reformed University Fellowship, United in Christ, and Wesley Foundation.

The purposes of Christival are to lift up Christ in a neutral place at the heart of campus, to provide a non-threatening location for non-believers to come, and to bring together Christian students from various groups for the purposes of worship and challenge.

Many universities have a special time of revival and spiritual emphases on their campuses, and there are many names which describe these events.

"We decided on the name Christival because it implies Christian and festival," said BSU director Ken Watkins.

These goals are accomplished by inviting excellent, motivational speakers and musicians who lead the worship times and urge the students to make decisions which will help to develop their spiritual lives.

"All projects begin with a vision, and the vision of Christival begins each year with the BSU," stated Watkins. "The real beauty of Christival is that it is primarily student-led."

Polled on their favorite aspects of Christival, some of this year's participants had varied responses.

"It's cool to have people there from different denominations," commented Jason Quave, a junior microbiology major from Vancleave. "I enjoyed the testimonies from Barrin Simpson and Edward Yeates (two MSU football players)."

"We had an awesome time thinking about how our campus stood apart from other campuses by praying for all parts of our campus, naming a lot of the universities in our nation and realizing that ours is set apart by prayer," he said.

"God is truly blessing MSU," said Julie

Connerley, an elementary education major from Brownsville, Tenn., who was on the prayer committee. "I like how all denominations and groups can come together. No matter how they may be labeled, it's just flat-out open to all souls."

Jill Stockstill, a junior elementary education major from Picayune, said, "It was wonderful to see a big gathering of Christian support and love on our campus."

A senior fitness management major from Greenville, Heather Matthews said, "I really like challenges, and Rick Caldwell, the speaker, challenged me to get off the couch of comfortable Christianity and go into the world and make a difference."

A junior microbiology major from Jackson, Scott Rhodes, said, "Every year it has taught me a different area of my life that needs improvement, and it's given me the motivation to change it."

"Christival has only improved since I've been here. It brings unity to faith because a lot of the Christian groups on campus don't do much together," commented Chris Jones, a junior, business major from Senatobia.

"I think it has a good future," he added.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

My daughter was born out of wedlock. Now a teenager, she is rushing headlong toward the same mistake, but I don't know how to talk with her in light of my own failures in that regard.

Honesty is always the best policy. Arrange a time and place where you and your daughter can talk at length without interruption. Ask her to be honest with you, and pledge your honesty in return.

Although you are intimidated by your own past mistakes, don't lose sight of the fact that you have a wonderful story to tell of how you became a Christian and turned your life around after a less-than-ideal start.

Make sure your daughter understands the sacrifices and difficulties of single motherhood, using your own life as an example. Ask her about her dreams for the future, and relate those dreams to the challenges of single motherhood. Explain that sexually-transmitted diseases can change her life forever.

Talk with your pastor or youth minister about getting your daughter involved in True Love Waits, the Southern Baptist program that encourages sexual abstinence until marriage.

You are battling a tremendous cultural force, and your daughter will ultimately make

her own choices. Be there to show her the better way, and pray that she will find peace and health in her life, not pain and suffering.

My pastor is rather clumsy when it comes to marital counseling, and it appears my marriage may depend on the outcome of counseling. What should I do?

Pastors are often looked upon as people who can do it all, like Superman. However, that's not a fair assessment of their skills. As in every other profession, people called to be pastors are not equally or uniformly gifted.

Some pastors may be more gifted at preaching than counseling. The reverse may be true for other pastors. Be honest with your pastor about your concern that the counseling you need may go beyond what he is able to do. Ask him for referrals to Christian professional counselors. Most pastors have such a list, but you can call Christian counseling centers yourself to determine their qualifications and experience.

Ask people you know where they or their friends have gone for Christian counseling. Pray that God will supply this need for you — and also pray for your pastor, who needs your encouragement and prayer support in his ministry.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

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EXPLORE THE BIBLE

God's plan for the church

Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16

By Harold W. Simmons

Paul wrote from jail to the church at Ephesus. When I use the term "the church at Ephesus," understand this means all the believers at Ephesus and not just one congregation.

At this time Ephesus was a large town. The theaters of Roman towns were usually built to accommodate ten percent of the population at one time. The theater of Ephesus could accommodate 50,000. It was for this reason that there were many "house churches" in the Ephesus community. Together they were "the church at Ephesus."

Live worthy of your calling

(4:1-3). Paul reminds his readers and us that it is because of his belief, faith, and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ that he is imprisoned. Man might lock up his body but he is a free man in Christ.

Circumstance does not dictate to the Christian how life will be because the Christian is always the victor in Christ. Paul urges the Ephesians to live a life worthy of demonstrating the Christian teachings. The Ephesian believers lived in a city that attracted all kinds of people. The temple of Diana was a safe house and place of refuge for people who killed others. It was a center for fertility worship



Simmons

with several hundred male and female prostitutes. Ephesus was a major center for the Roman government. Persons traveling from Rome to the eastern part of the empire or from the east to Rome must stop at Ephesus. The Ephesians must live pure lives because of the evil rampant in the community. They must live exemplary lives because daily they were coming into contact with nonbelievers from all over the empire. Paul said that it is important to put on a united front.

Magnify the Church's oneness (4:4-6). Paul emphasizes unity by the use of the number one in these verses. He uses the reputation of the single digit seven times to hammer home the idea of unity. Our God is over all in authority and power. His power is demonstrated through

all believers. He permeates every part of every believer. Thus, we can and should be united.

Exercise God's gifts (4:7, 11-12). The one who gave us grace is the one who also gave us gifts. Notice that our Lord Jesus gave to each church the gifts that are necessary for the furtherance of the church in all its ministries. Individuals of the church have been given the gifts of ministries for the express purpose of building up the church in spiritual growth as well as physical growth in numbers.

There is absolutely no question in Paul's mind that every believer has a gift and is expected to exercise that gift for the betterment of the congregation.

Grow in Christ (4:13-16). Leonard Chandler was a very active senior adult until illness struck. Leonard remained in intensive care for over 67 days. God spared his life and Leonard is recovering.

He is learning all over again how to walk. He could not lift himself up from the bed or chair. He could not balance himself after he was helped up. Leonard is exercising his muscles and is daily gaining strength.

Before, you could have knocked him over with a feather. Now he is stronger. Paul said we need to grow stronger in order to be a stable Christian.

The stronger each individual believer is, the stronger the unified church.

God speaks to us. I believe that God wants us to evaluate ourselves and discover our individual gifts and know why God has placed us in precisely the church where we are members.

Acting as a team we lend strength to each other and the whole church is linked together with the strength of a log chain.

Simmons is pastor of Hebron Church, Grenada.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

What about divorce?

Mark 10:1-12

By Grace Graham

A question about divorce (10:1-2). What about divorce? Many people still ask this question today. The pharisees tried to test Jesus once again. This encounter took place in Peaea, a territory ruled by Herod.

Divorce was a hot issue during this time because Herod Antipas and Herodias had recently divorced in order to marry each other. Verse 2 makes it clear that this "trick question" was not to obtain guidance, but to make Jesus compromise himself.

It is interesting that the pharisees asked if divorce was "lawful." Were they asking if it is according to God's instruction?

The question is not whether divorce is legal but whether it is in accord with God's divine purpose. This passage gives us the opportunity to take a new look at Jesus' teachings on marriage.

A lesson about marriage (10:3-9). Jesus asked the learned pharisees what the law of Moses had to say on the subject. They responded that a man was allowed to write a certificate of divorce. (There was no provision for a wife to divorce her husband.)

There were two schools of thought on this verse. There were those who held to the stern school of Shammai and



Graham

those who held to the lax school of Hillel. Both schools saw divorce as normal. They differed on the justification for it. The followers of Shammai interpreted Deuteronomy 24:1-4 by saying that the words "some indecency" only meant acts of unchastity.

The disciples of Hillel were much more permissive giving examples of any unsatisfactory quality in a wife.

This law was given for a reason and Jesus hit it head on. The reason for the law was *hardness of heart*. People were set on doing what they thought and desired; they seemed unreachable to God's will. Citing passages from the creation account in Genesis 1-2, Jesus stated that the institution of marriage was in the purpose of God; a new home was established with a new unity and it was not

according to his purpose for a blessed relationship to be torn apart by God's creatures.

This is an undisputed teaching. That we have failures in marriage for whatever reasons can never make the failures a good thing, nor change what God would have willed for marriage. As in early Hebrew society, in human existence, divorce may be best of two bad options.

No law can lift us to God's full purpose for life. We should not understand Jesus' teaching here as "law." It is an exhortation to seek God's will; not legalism. This is the ideal given in God's purpose as Jesus interprets it: lifelong and exclusive faithfulness.

A warning about adultery (10:10-12). The disciples needed more help on this matter. They waited until they got Jesus alone and asked for further explanation. This was a very different approach from one who ate with tax collectors, talked to

women, and forgave an adulteress. He had seemed so lax about sexual relationships. He certainly showed no laxity here. His very strong views on this subject surprised even the disciples and drove them to seek further information.

He responded to their question with some very strong statements. He was not creating legalism, he was reinforcing what he had already said about God's absolute standard and intention. Just as it seems today, the first century was a time of easy divorces. Jesus' words certainly make one realize that this is a serious matter, one not to be taken lightly.

Consider this week how Jesus' teaching about the high standard for marriage could encourage you to find ways to ensure a successful marriage through Christ.

Graham is Childhood Education Director at First Church, Gulfport.

LIFE AND WORK

Marriage and Singleness

Matthew 19:4-6, 1-12; Romans 16:3-5a; I Corinthians 7:9, 32-35; Ephesians 5:21-22, 25

By Jim Burnett

Whether one is single or married is not the issue of the lesson today. It's what you do with your marriage or singleness that matters.

Although the number of singles today in America is on the rise, we continue to live in a culture whereby people cast odd looks at the single. Some seem to think that something is wrong with those who haven't found a mate. The Bible, however, states that God has actually called some people to be single and has gifted them with celibacy, the ability to live without sex.

Others are not gifted this way and should marry. But the common ground between married and singles is God's expecta-

tion: Christian adults are to exemplify high moral standards, live Christ-centered lives, and give themselves in service to Jesus Christ.

Christian singleness: a unique gift (Matt. 19:10-12; 1 Cor. 7:7). The Apostle Paul had the gift of celibacy. He did not need sexual relations with a woman to bring fulfillment to his life.

There are men and women today whom God has called to be single. With this singleness comes the gift of celibacy. If you are one of those, count yourself blessed of the Lord and use your singleness in his service.

A major temptation (1 Cor. 7:8-9). Perhaps one of the greatest pitfalls for singles is sexual



Burnett

immorality. Alarming statistics are coming from our high schools and colleges that reveal our kids are becoming more and more sexually active. They see no harm in premarital sexual relations.

This mentality does not stop upon graduation. Christian singles, however, must realize that sexual immorality is sin and has severe consequences. That's why Paul says if you can't control your sexual passions, consider marriage.

In a society intoxicated with sex like ours is, it is essential that Christian singles live under the control of God's spirit. Choose your reading materials carefully, surf the net with discernment, choose your friends discretely, for Satan would love to drag you down in the mud of sexual immorality. Don't give him the satisfaction.

A great opportunity (1 Cor. 7:32-35). There is an undeniable advantage to being single: It allows you to be completely

devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ. A single person can have a very flexible schedule and make on-the-spot changes when necessary without consulting anyone but their calendar.

For a married person, however, this is impossible. For example, before a married woman could commit to a weekend endeavor, her husband and children would have to be consulted.

For the single, a minute's notice is ample. Those single, unless divorced with kids, do not have sick children to doctor, soccer games to attend, PTA meetings and other child-related events. That is not to say that singles have no concerns, but they do have more flexibility and fewer demands on them for the most part. However, being single doesn't automatically make you an instrument of God. You must commit your singleness to Christ.

Christian marriage: an important choice (Matt. 19:4-6)

What emotions do you feel when you attend a 50th wedding anniversary? In our day and age

when divorce has become a malady, we, the church, should applaud those who have kept the same spouse for a lifetime.

A mutual responsibility (Eph. 5:21-22, 25). The relationship between a Christian husband and wife must be partnership where each spouse brings his and her gifts to the marriage.

The question of who's the boss never arises in a Christ-centered marriage. Why? Because the husband who loves his wife the way Christ loved and loves his church, will usually have a wife who gladly follows his lead.

A great opportunity (Rom. 16:3-5a). Priscilla and Aquila were a dynamite duo who helped Paul immensely. God used their union to do great things in his name.

Is your marriage furthering the cause of Christ? I firmly believe that every Christian couple should do more for the Lord together than they could do for him as singles.

Burnett is pastor of Raymond Road Church, Jackson.

Lee churches promoting health initiative

"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body." 1 Cor. 6:19-20

TUPELO, Miss. — The North Mississippi Health Services (NMHS) Church Health Ministry Program is a shining example of the "Live Well" community health initiative.

Registered nurses volunteer their time to provide valuable health information and education to the congregation of their church. Their goal is to help teach fellow church members how they can maintain or improve their health.

Since its implementation in February 1997, North Mississippi Medical Center (NMMC) has identified 39 registered nurses in the Lee County area who volunteer their services and serve as a resource person for their congregation on valuable health information.

To date, 45 churches are participating in the program, including several Southern Baptist churches in Lee Association.

"The mission of our regional health care company is to continuously improve the health of the people in our region, and the Church Health Ministry Program is another avenue for educating the general public about preventive health care.

"The more people we can reach, the greater their chances of early detection and diagnosis," said Dottie Wilson, coordinator, NMHS Church Health Ministry Program.

The NMMC registered nurses participating in the Church Health Ministry Program volunteer their time.

The NMHS Community Health Department provides the nurses with resource materials and supplies, and participating churches provide the space for health programs and educational information.

Lou Ann Ryan, NMMC Heart Institute's Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Department, serves as a resource person for Calvary Church, Tupelo.

"I feel like my church is my extended family, and if there is anything that I can do to address the special needs of my congregation, I will do it.

"I am very fortunate to be a part of this program, and I believe I receive as much from the members of my church as they do from me," said Ryan.

Sheri Johnson, NMMC Behavioral Health Center and resource person for Oak Hill United Methodist Church in Tupelo, held a health fair for members of her congregation and offered blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose screenings.

"My husband, Ken, had been taking blood pressure medication, but we did not realize his blood pressure was still extremely high until we participated in the health fair at our church.

I knew mine was borderline, but I had no idea that I had hypertension," said Pat Houston, resident of Tupelo and member of Oak Hill United Methodist Church.

"The benefits of the Church Health Ministry Program are endless. Not only is it a very valuable experience for the registered nurses, but also a wonderful way to educate the public on health issues that will help them lead healthier, happier lives," said program coordinator Wilson.

For more information on the NMHS Church Health Ministry Program, contact Wilson at (800) 843-3375.



CHURCH NURSES —Thirty-nine registered nurses employed by North Mississippi Health Services in Tupelo participate in the Church Health Ministry Program now available at 45 Lee County churches.

Bibliocipher

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NOE RY MCY HWE GH
ELY USYIL, NOE GH ELY
IBGCCGE, GU IW NY ELME
ELY IBGCCGE WU KWZ
ZTYSS GH RWO. HWT GU
MHR QMH LMA Y HWE
ELY IBGCCGE WU VLCGIE,
LY GI HWHY WU LGI.

CWQMHI YGKLE: HGHY

Clue: N = B

Have fun with cryptography, and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Four Twenty-Four.

Children's Village, medical center band together

TUPELO, Miss. — Baptist Children's Village (BCV) and North Mississippi Medical Center (NMMC) Pastoral Counseling Service have joined forces to help keep area families together.

BCV, a not-for-profit agency of the Mississippi Baptist Convention with headquarters in Jackson, began referring families to NMMC's Pastoral Counseling Service in June 1997.

The NMMC program is staffed with two ordained ministers who are certified pastoral counselors and licensed marriage/family therapists.

"We bring our special skills in counseling and theology to our work as we continue in the long tradition and heritage of the church which for centuries has sought to bring help in time of trouble," said Jeff Flinn, director, NMMC Pastoral Counseling Service.

"Our ministry works closely with families to help them stay together," said Jim Alford, director of BCV Northeast Mississippi Family Ministries.

"This partnership between NMMC and BCV is the only one of its type in the state. It is our hope that our efforts will be successful and this type of program will be offered in other parts of the state," he said.

"Area families and ministers are definitely taking advantage of the referrals through the BCV. We have seen a wide variety of clients through this new referral source.

"One reason for our success is area pastors have been very receptive to referring families to Jim, who then works with families on where to seek counseling and helps them make payment arrangements," Flinn said.

Alford's office is located in Lee Association's office in

Verona. The association works in partnership with BCV by providing office space.

"Children come to BCV with multiple spiritual, emotional, and physical needs, and for a multitude of reasons, including unstable home environment, delinquency, health or financial problems, physical, emotional or sexual abuse, chemical dependency, neglect, or perhaps the parents simply do not want the child," Alford said.

BCV has provided homes for

children whose family lives are in turmoil for the past 101 years. The institution has five residential child care centers throughout the state.

"We realize that education will help families get stronger. Our goal is to prevent problems before they can happen and children need placement in one of our residential centers.

"For this to work, we need to reach them before they reach a crisis point. When counseling is needed, we call upon NMMC's Pastoral Counseling Service because the counselors are professionals and distinctively Christian," Alford said.

BCV covers the fee for each individual's first counseling session, and also provides financial assistance for those unable to pay the full counseling fee for additional sessions.

The NMMC Pastoral Counseling Service is designed to provide a safe, caring place where individuals, families and couples can find help and assistance for their hurts and difficulties.

Fees are set on a sliding scale based on income, family size and family circumstances.

For more information on the NMMC Pastoral Counseling Service and their work with BCV, call (800) 843-3375.



WORKING TOGETHER — Counselors with North Mississippi Medical Center's Pastoral Counseling Service include (from left) Bill Smith, Lee Association director of missions; Jim Alford of the Baptist Children's Village; and Jeff Flinn and Michael Lippard of the North Mississippi Medical Center's Pastoral counseling Service.